

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1887.

President and Party.

When the last national contest was fought over the presidency it was stated that the election of a Democratic president would probably result—in a more or less complete change of officers—a yielding of the Executive to Southern influences, an endangering of the protective tariff policy.

The answer was, "The President will be stronger than his party. He has promised to reform the civil service, to remove only for cause, and to protect the business interests of the country." How has he succeeded? As to civil service reform, George William Curtis says: "In a survey of the whole service there has been almost as complete a change as was practicable, since an entirely new force of totally inexperienced officers would have prevented the regular transaction of the public business." His further statements show his loss of faith in the president, as well as in both political parties.

That Southern influence has predominated at the Capital is too well known to need demonstration. The cabinet and diplomatic appointments have been largely from the South. The action of the Executive upon pension bills, tariff measures, and the order directing the return of Rebel flags, shows the influences which are directing his policy. It is true the internal revenue and tariff laws are still unchanged, except so far as treasury decisions can affect them. But for this, are any thanks due to the President? Was not all his influence given to the passage, last Winter, of a low tariff bill, fortunately defeated through the efforts of Samuel J. Randall and about thirty other Democrats, aided by the whole Republican phalanx?

Where then has the President proved himself stronger than his party? What measure has he devised, and carried out against their wishes? Has he stopped the useless coining of silver? His letter written before inauguration asking that it be discontinued was quietly pigeon holed. His recommendations as to a reduction of revenue were disregarded. The party demanded, with a howl, that the spoils of office be distributed among the visitors, and it was done. The party demanded that a low tariff bill be passed and it was not done, because Mr. Randall was there to veto it. The President's backbone was gone, but Mr. Randall's was still in its place. The Rebel flags are still unreturned because the Grand Army Veterans were on hand with their veto.

In the controversy between President and party the people have remained interested witnesses. They were told that "the tail would surely wag the dog." After the lapse of two years and six months of continued experimenting, it seems tolerably certain that the dog will usually wag the tail; and that while a Republican tail on a Democratic dog is better than a Democratic tail on the same kind of an animal, it is after all hardly a success. In this case it seems probable that at the end of the present experiment, both tail and dog will be entirely Democratic.

A practical test of constitutional prohibition has recently been made in Rhode Island. Its results will be regarded with interest by temperance workers everywhere.

The following words of the *Providence Journal* are without doubt trustworthy, for they are quoted without comment in the *New York Evangelist*, a leading organ of the Presbyterian Church:

Whatever may be the cause, it cannot be denied that prohibition in Rhode Island, after a year's experience, is found to be so complete a failure that it is no extravagance to pronounce it a miserable farce. It has not even approximately prohibited the use of intoxicating liquor. In Newport, where perhaps prohibition comes nearer to being a success than in any other populous part of the State, drunkenness has not only alarmingly increased of late, but the proportion of offences growing out of liquor drinking to the total number of all arrests is actually three per cent greater than it was a year ago under the license law. It is said that in Providence there are now thirty-nine more places where liquor is sold than there were licensed saloons two years ago.

An Interesting Legal Point.

In the District Court, the other day, a landlord and tenant case came up where the former endeavored to dispossess the latter for non-payment of rent. Judge Van Cleve granted a non-suit because the landlord could not swear that the tenant did not have \$200 worth of furniture. There is an interesting legal point connected with this. It is well known that in all suits for debt, if the defendant be a married man, he is entitled to \$200 exemption from seizure. He can pick out \$200 worth of furniture that cannot be levied upon under an execution. His wearing apparel and the tools with which he earns his living are also exempt from seizure. In a landlord and tenant case

the tenant can be ejected from the premises for default in rent, under the ordinary dispossessing process, provided he has not \$200 worth of furniture, and the landlord must make affidavit that the tenant is not worth that much. If he has enough furniture over \$200 worth to leave a balance sufficient to pay the rent due, he can only be dispossessed by what is commonly called a "distress warrant." A more proper word would be distraint. The landlord can seize enough furniture, picked out from that which is in excess of the \$200 exemption selected by the tenant, and sell it, until enough is realized to pay the amount due for rent. The landlord, however, runs the risk of burning his fingers if he proceeds to sell without being fully satisfied that there is over \$200 worth. The value of the furniture is fixed by appraisers appointed by the court. They set a price on every article. The tenant selects his \$200 worth, and then the remainder can be sold, until enough money is obtained for the payment of the rent and the court costs. Several people have asked what Judge Van Cleve's decision meant, and we have therefore obtained from him the above interpretation of the statutes on which the decision was based.—*Paterson Guardian*.

Teanick Grange.

Teanick Grange, the home of the Hon. William Walter Phelps, in Bergen County, is the finest and most valuable estate not only in New Jersey, but probably in the whole country. It lies between the Hackensack and Hudson rivers, extending from river to river, a distance of six miles. It comprises a great many hundred acres, certainly as many as fifteen hundred, and probably over two thousand. When Mr. Phelps purchased it, about twenty years ago, it was a most discouraging looking property—rough and uncultivated, without a single decent road, and containing an ordinary little old farm house. The present mansion was designed by one of the first architects in this country, and is one of the finest pieces of artistic house-building that this country contains. It is a perfect picture of beauty. The house is located a little below the highest point, thus being sheltered from the bleak winds that sometimes sweep across these elevations, and is embowered amongst trees, with a great stretch of lawn, broken here and there by clumps of trees or projections of forest sweeping away from the front! The house is an extensive pile, capable of accommodating a small army. Mr. Phelps is very hospitable and always has a half dozen to twenty or more guests in his house. He dispenses a hospitality as delightful as it is princely, and there is probably no happier home in this country.

Since he has purchased the property in the rough, Mr. Phelps has transformed this rugged old hill ground into a veritable paradise. He has built in different parts of the estate twenty-seven pretty cottages, as large, unique and handsome as the average cottages of the better sort at Asbury Park. These houses are the homes of his employees. He has also constructed twenty-five miles of macadamized roads, and has planted well on to half a million trees, and is planting them still at the rate forty thousand a year. The planting, and tree culture, is Mr. Phelps' particular hobby. The great number, variety, beauty and artistic arrangement of his trees constitute the principal charms of this magnificent estate. There are tree-bordered walks, and drives and romantic retreats, in all parts of the farm. He has a great many trees growing from the nut, some of rare and interesting sorts. He has a promising grove of chestnuts, planted like corn, and now disclosing a tiny stem from two to four leaves, that was planted this Spring. This is to be called the "Hattie Grove" after a near and dear friend—Mr. Phelps has a delightful way of paying such pleasant little compliments to his friends.

Some idea of the value of this princely estate may be derived from the fact that he easily borrowed half a million dollars on it during the panic of 1873. Within eight or nine miles of the largest city on the American continent, whence it may be reached in a few minutes by three or four lines of railroad that run through it, located on a commanding, beautiful and picturesque range of hills, and developed and beautified by the lavish expenditure of great wealth and refined and cultured taste, Teanick Grange is undoubtedly the most valuable estate in this country.—*State Gazette*.

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